

TIP OF THE

June 10, 2005

Sword

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

New planes,
New mission



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On the cover:

C-17s line up on the flightline ready to support Incirlik's new cargo hub operations. The first C-17s began arriving June 1. The cargo arrives from the United States and is delivered to a number of locations in Iraq. See related article, Page 4. (Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III)

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. Michael Gardiner,
39th Air Base Wing commander

Personal responsibility

There are many ways people get hurt that are simply accidents, but life and health are too precious to take unnecessary risks. A couple of weeks ago an Incirlik Airman decided to rent a moped. The shop he rented from did not offer helmets and instead of looking for another shop that did carry helmets, the Airman decided to rent anyway. He got into an accident. Thankfully, the injuries were not to the Airman's head but very easily could have been. Making the decision to ride that vehicle without a helmet put that Airman's life at risk needlessly.

We all have the responsibility to take every precaution we can to stay safe and whole. Accidents happen, but with proper operational risk management and good common sense, you can avoid becoming a statistic. I expect everyone at every level to reduce unnecessary risks and hazards to make our workplaces, recreational areas and quarters safer. To reduce risks, just follow a simple "TIA" formula: (1) Think — carefully examine and analyze the risks/hazards associated with the planned activity; (2) Identify unnecessary risks; and (3) Act — take common sense steps to reduce those risks. I challenge everyone to use this simple approach in your daily lives. Make risk reduction part of your daily routine. If you

see a safer way to get things done, speak up and prevent the mishap before it occurs. TIA: Think, Identify and Act!

Combat Fitness

Combat Fitness is a U.S. Forces in Europe program designed to encourage people to get out and take their health seriously. There are a number of classes and activities year round on Incirlik that can help you get and stay fit. During the summer months, a whole new world of activities become available. The base pool offers water aerobics three times a week, mild mornings and evenings encourage jogging and walking outdoors, and special events, like the Incirlik 50th Anniversary military sports day, offer opportunities to work out as a team. Get out, get moving and don't forget to log those workouts on FITLINXX!

Traveling in Turkey

Turkey has a number of exciting and exotic places to visit, but remember that wherever you go you are a representative of the Air Force and the United States. Your actions reflect on all of us so be courteous of our host nation. Respect their culture and monuments and follow their laws. Don't make a bad impression on our hosts by being loud and obnoxious.

Force Protection

Popular tourist areas are also popular terrorist hit areas. Remember to stay alert and aware of your surroundings when you are traveling in Turkey. Keep your eyes open for people who seem out of place. Trust your instincts. Often your subconscious will pick up on clues your conscious mind doesn't. If something doesn't feel right, leave. If you come across anything suspicious, leave the area and notify the authorities.



Project Wizard, a U.S. Air Forces in Europe special interest program, focuses on the opportunities to study and explore through libraries. For more information about the program or upcoming events, call the library at 6-6759.

The 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the *Tip of the Sword*. The 39th ABW Public Affairs Office (Unit 7090, Box 135, APO AE 09824-5153) is located in Building 833, Room 274.
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Action line

Emphasis on customs requirement catches Airmen off guard with fines

Concern: Due to a law change last month, anyone who is here serving past their original date of return from overseas is subject to a \$115 fine on their beyanname if they failed to inform customs of their changed DEROS prior to the end of their initial tour.

Essentially, there are many people on base who, due to this recent change, are going to be hit with over \$100 in fines for something they could not have anticipated or prevented due to lack of information. This requirement was never communicated through any medium until now.

Response: In order to be stationed in Turkey, each military or Department of Defense civilian sponsor must clear Turkish customs, just as a Turkish citizen must clear U.S. customs when entering into the United States. Recently Turkish customs started enforcing an overlooked clause that required military and DOD authorized civilians to notify customs of any change to their DEROS. Failure to comply with this requirement resulted in several military members paying customs fines. Of course, this caught several hundred personnel off guard and the 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron and base legal office were quick to address this issue.

We immediately appealed the fine to Turkish customs headquarters in Mersin and Ankara. Both of these appeals were denied. As the situation exists now, military members who have extended their DEROS have no choice but to pay the fine or risk impoundment of their property by Turkish customs.

However, there are two things people who plan to extend their DEROS should do to avoid these fines:

- ◆ Members should take the checklist provided by the military personnel flight to the Turkish Customs Liaison Office. This office will notify the local Turkish customs office of the individual's extension.

- ◆ Members should pay attention to the TCLO e-mails directly sent two to three months prior to the original DEROS requesting any updates to their file. At this time, members should update their file without delay.

Although this process was implemented with no advance notice to military members, we have done our best to adapt to our host nation's requirements. With each member's cooperation, we can ensure all personnel have an easy transition to and from their assignment here.



Photo by Airman Bradley Lail

Lines of communication

Senior Airman Jason Sharp, 39th Communications Squadron air traffic control radio maintainer, repunches a line identified with a bad connection on a demark block.

YOUR TURN

What are your plans for after graduation?

"I am going to college at the University of Incarnate Ward in San Antonio, Texas. I want to major in Psychology."



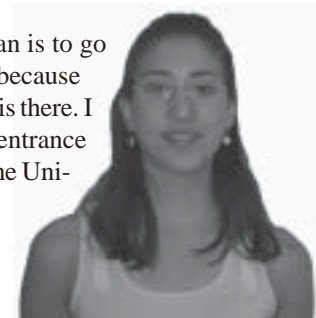
— **Ernestina Valdez**, Incirlik American High School senior

"I plan on taking courses at the University of Maryland University College. I'll take prerequisites for about a year, then I plan on joining the Air Force. I want to work in computer networking."



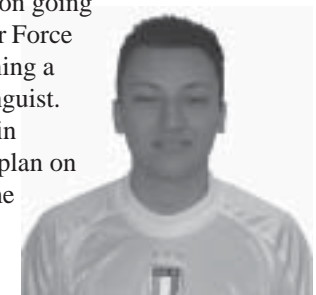
— **Shawn Erway**, IAHS senior

"My plan is to go to Greece because my family is there. I am taking entrance exams to the University of Athens in September and I'm hoping to get accepted."



— **Irene Siaperas**, IAHS senior

"I plan on going into the Air Force and becoming a Turkish linguist. Before I join though, I plan on taking some courses through UMUC."



— **Can Sirer**, IAHS senior

To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

Enter the Globemaster

New mission, planes arrive at Incirlik in support of OIF

By Senior Airman Jessica Switzer

39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

A new mission kicked off here June 1st with the arrival and departure of the first C-17 Globemaster IIIs carrying cargo to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The new mission works on a 'hub and spoke' concept," said Lt. Col. Jim Burton, 728th Air Mobility Squadron operations officer. "It calls for cargo to come into Incirlik from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and go from here to several locations in Iraq. The increase to Incirlik's mission creates a higher operations tempo for the support systems and people who work on and with the aircraft deployed here and requires more aircrews, maintainers and aerial porters to support the new operation."

"The Aircrews will be here for around two weeks at a time and the support personnel will be here from anywhere between 30 and 120 days," he continued. "More people on base means there is more workload to support."

The cargo hub mission moved to Incirlik from Rhein-Main AB, Germany, in an effort to conserve Air Force resources.

"It's a fuel and flying time issue," said Colonel Burton. "It is more efficient for the C-17 because the cargo is delivered closer to Iraq without going to Iraq itself. By moving it here, it is possible to move the same amount of cargo with fewer planes."

The C-17s are not permanently stationed here, the colonel said. They are here from Charleston AFB and McChord AFB, Wash., rotating in and out every two weeks.



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

One of the C-17 Globemaster IIIs used in Incirlik's new cargo hub operations taxis down the runway. The C-17 is capable of rapid strategic delivery of cargo to main operating bases or directly to forward bases in the deployment area.

"The cargo is supporting troops in Iraq. It's primarily what we call 'general cargo,'" said Colonel Burton. "It is for sustaining operations in Iraq—things people need to keep their mission going."

Right now, the cargo hub is supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, and has the ability to expand to support Operation Enduring Freedom, he said.

Changes headed to club complex

By Maj. Michael Platt

39th Services Squadron

Incirlik's consolidated club complex has been recognized as one of 14 financially struggling U.S. Air Forces in Europe Services activities, by Gen. Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander.

The 39th Air Base Wing received approval to contract out the club's dining room operation in order to maintain food service while stopping unsustainable financial loss.

The club was identified as struggling because of several factors involved in its current operations. Staffing is as low as it can be and still function, the club dining room has more than \$40,000 in monthly labor costs alone. The dining room is a popular place, but tenders less than \$25,000 in sales per month. When other costs are added, dining room losses reach nearly \$19,000 per month.

Contracting out dining room functions

will be almost transparent to club customers. All other club services — bar service, bingo, slots, ITT, Mayanet — will remain unchanged. The 39th Contracting Squadron estimates a contract start date of Aug. 1. Until the contract begins, the club will continue to maintain uninterrupted lunch service Monday through Friday.

Bars will be open as usual, but dinner service will be suspended until the contract starts.

Club personnel will work with special function points of contact to ensure these can continue. After the contract is in place, the club will offer lunch and dinner every day of the week.

The 39th Services Squadron, along with the 39th Mission Support Squadron, is working hard to ensure as many affected club personnel as possible are offered alternate employment on base.

For more information on services that are offered at the club, call 6-6010.



Extreme Summer is a U.S. Air Forces in Europe program that gives out points and prizes for using base facilities and programs.

Play to win prizes, trips, cars and more. Visit any services facility to register or log on to www.extremesummer.com.

It only takes 300 points to qualify for a chance to win one of the monthly prize drawings for a trip to the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany.

The Community Center is the Extreme Summer Headquarters here.

For more information, call 6-6966 or visit www.extremesummer.com.

IN THE NEWS

Power outage

There are power outages from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday at softball fields 1 and 2, Rubb 3 and 4, fire pumps and irrigation pump panel;

Wednesday at shelter buildings 73 and 98.

June 17 at 39th Maintenance Squadron buildings 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607 and 608 as well as 39th Civil Engineer Squadron buildings 626 and 627, 39th Operations Squadron building 627, 39th Security Forces Squadron buildings 621, 634 and 640, and 39th Air Base Wing Operations building 628.

This is to assist with the project to repair electric distribution systems. For more information, call Sabahattin Celik at 6-8020 or 6-6570.

Change of Command

There is a 728th Air Mobility Squadron change of command 9 a.m. Monday in the Grand Turan ballroom at the club. Lt. Col. Janon Ellis will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Christopher Kulas. For more information, call 1st Lt. Ryan Elliott at 6-2969.

Town hall meeting

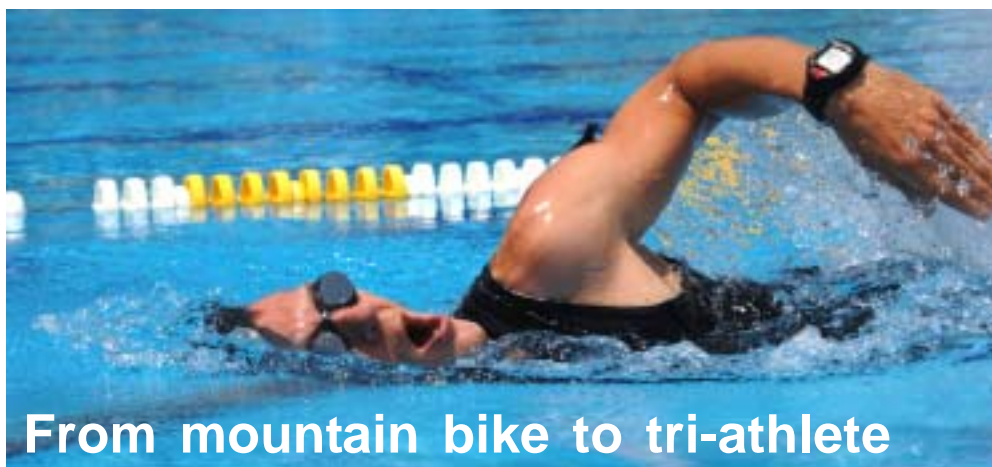
Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander, is holding a town hall meeting 5 p.m. June 21 at the base theatre to discuss family housing and dormitory living issues and concerns. For more information, call George Katsiitis at 6-6232.

SGLI increase

The Service Member's Group Life Insurance maximum coverage increases from \$250,000 to \$400,000 Sept. 1. For more information, call the military personnel flight customer service section at 6-3280.

TDY travel vouchers

Personnel going TDY for 45 days or more must bring a copy of their travel orders to finance customer service. For more information on filling out an accrual or interim travel vouchers, call 6-6306 or e-mail 39cpts.customerservice@incirlik.af.mil.



From mountain bike to tri-athlete

Photo by Tech. Sgt. William Gomez

Staff Sgt. Richard McAfee, 39th Air Base Wing senior emergency action controller, trains at the base pool in preparation for upcoming triathlons.

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Burgess

39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

When Staff Sgt. Richard McAfee trains for his upcoming odyssey (five triathlons), in his dorm room on a stationary bicycle setup a black 2004 T-shirt from the XTERRA World Championship at Wailea Maui, hangs on his wall and stares him down.

The shirt is one of only 400 and was given to the former mountain bike racer turned tri-athlete as motivation from his coach, world class tri-athlete Justin Thomas.

While Sergeant McAfee has not competed in a triathlon to date, he has competed in mountain bike races since 2001. What started out as a hobby for the 27-year-old during his 2000 tour at Aviano Air Base, Italy, turned into a way of life and ultimately an invitation to Maui, he said.

The 5-foot-10-inch, 142-pound sergeant does not consider himself an athlete, just a dabbler.

"After five years of mountain bike racing, I got bored and decided to turn my energy toward becoming a tri-athlete," said Sergeant McAfee. "I know I'm not the fastest out there; I have the heart but just not the speed in all the events."

All XTERRA triathlons are fairly equal he said. "They consist of a 1,500 meter (one mile) swim, 30 to 40 kilometer (20 to 25 miles) mountain bike race, and an eight to 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) run."

As a mountain bike racer, he was in the top three for his age group last year and raced in the TransAlp Challenge, billed as one of the hardest mountain bike race in the world.

"The eight-day race is 411 miles with 60,000 feet of climbing. That's like climbing Mount Everest twice," he said.

He has been training since November for

this series of races. The first race in the series will be the XTERRA in the Czech Republic and the last is the XTERRA in Austria. He also hopes to participate in two more races in September.

Each week Sergeant McAfee trains for 10 to 15 hours. The regiment is closely monitored by his coach.

"I record every workout session using my heart-rate monitor and e-mail data to my coach daily," said Sergeant McAfee. "He downloads it and tells me whether I'm doing what I'm supposed to or not."

The heart-rate monitor is an important tool in his training program. He uses it and the foot pedometer that comes with the watch and heart-rate monitor during his 1.5 mile fitness test.

"I used it to gauge my pace and it helped me score a 100 on the test," he said.

McAfee works out on a four-week cycle: three weeks of training and one week of recovery.

"During the week I will also do brick workouts. They are multiple workouts like a bike to run or swim to bike," he said.

Another advantage for McAfee is his coach is competing at the same events.

"Having him there will be awesome. I will have instant feedback and encouragement on the spot," he said.

For Sergeant McAfee training will not stop in between races.

"Even though we have a hectic travel schedule going through five countries in four weeks, it will be interesting to see how we get to fit it all in," he said.

Sergeant McAfee said he was fortunate to have friends introduce him to the sport.

"I love it, it is what drives me ... when you sit in an office for 12 hours with no windows, you got to love being outside."

Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians watch the detonation of a large capture of enemy ammunition found north of Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

Battlefield Airmen

***EOD puts
war-time
AFSC to
the test
in Iraq***

By Senior Airman Stephanie Hammer
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

"This is BTOC (Battalion Tactical Operations Center) requesting EOD support to respond to an IED located on a main supply route. Security escort is enroute to your location."

Throwing on their protective gear and grabbing their weapons, they head to the rally point. After a quick briefing, they jump in the up-armored hummer and take off into the night. The landscape is lit under the eerie green glow of night vision, ridding them of their depth perception and leaving an un-

easy feeling in the pit of their stomachs.

As the Army convoy comes to a stop, they quickly jump from the vehicle. The heat threatens to overcome them as they blink back beads of sweat under 45 pounds of Kevlar. Vulnerable, they glance around cautiously for signs of insurgents and seeing none, crawl into the ditch and go to work.

They are the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight responsible for rendering safe any explosive hazards posing a threat to coalition military operations or the civilian population while deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, from August 2004 through January 2005.



Photo Senior Airman Phillip Granath

"I knew Iraq was dangerous," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Saunders. "I knew there was the possibility that we would see action. I mentally gripped the fact that I may die performing my job."

The mission

The 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight was responsible for 39,000 square miles, an area roughly the size of Kentucky. This was the largest area of responsibility for any EOD coalition force in Iraq.

"I've done more EOD work before lunch my first day in country than some EOD technicians who have spent 20 years in the

career field," said Sergeant Saunders, who was deployed from the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight, Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

With only 12 Airmen, they split into four teams and took turns working on the base, off the base, recovery and disposal of captured enemy ammunition, and supporting a forward operating base.

The impact

In more than five months, the team responded to 115 improvised explosive device incidents, 72 of which were live and rendered safe. Combined with other teams in U.S. Central Command Air Forces, EOD units re-

Incirlik EOD tech receives Bronze Star with Valor

**By Senior Airman
Stephanie Hammer**

39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

An explosive ordnance disposal technician recently received the Bronze Star with Valor for his work while deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

Senior Master Sgt. William Walton, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron flight chief, said he accepted the medal on behalf of the Airmen and Soldiers deployed with him from August 2004 to January 2005.

"Although I'm honored that down-range leadership thought enough of me to submit me for this award, the Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division and the nine Airmen who served with me deserved to stand next to me during the decoration ceremony," said Sergeant Walton. "Three hundred and seventy six successful, high-risk missions outside the wire are not done alone."

While deployed, he and his team braved extreme danger in a hostile environment to render safe more than 65 improvised explosive devices and destroyed more than 250 tons of enemy ordnance.

"These Airmen and Soldiers met every mission with valor and courage and are the true heroes in my book," said Sergeant Walton. "A day doesn't go by that I don't think of these fine individuals and their contributions to our military."

The Bronze Star, the United States' fourth highest combat decoration, recognizes acts of heroism performed in ground combat.

Although Sergeant Walton was the only one of three from his team to receive the Bronze Star, he said almost everyone on his team would go back and do it again.

"We don't do it for medals or glory," said Sergeant Walton. "We do it because it's our job. The satisfaction lies in the fact that we made a difference."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Saunders

An up armored hummer sustains damage after Staff Sgt. Patrick Saunders and Senior Airman Phillip Granath, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, were hit by a roadside improvised explosive device during a deployment to Kirkuk Air Base Iraq. "Ultimately, no matter how many IEDs you rendered safe or pieces of ordnance you confiscated and destroyed, you feel completely useless when you see an IED go off in front of you because it was your job to prevent those things from happening," said Sergeant Saunders.

sponded to 282 IED incidents, 108 of which were rendered safe. This was the largest number of IED responses in Air Force history during such a short period of time, according to the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency.

USCENTAF rendered safe 97 percent of the live IEDs and 86 percent of all ordnance items recovered or destroyed worldwide for this time period.

"The EOD mission in Kirkuk seemed like a win/lose battle," said Sergeant Saunders. "Some days you would render safe multiple IEDs or you would dispose of thousands of pounds of ordnance which could be turned into IEDs. Ultimately, no matter how many IEDs you rendered safe or pieces of ordnance you confiscated and destroyed, you feel completely useless when you

see an IED go off in front of you because it was your job to prevent those things from happening."

An evolving career field

Just a few years ago, an EOD technician could only dream about doing "real" EOD work. Today, the war on terror demands they do their job and more.

"Before I went to Iraq, I did a lot of combat training but was never taught street smarts," said Senior Master Sgt. Kent Gray, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight superintendent who deployed last year to Balad AB, Iraq. "We learned to hit a target, but were never taught what the target was. I had no doubt my guys could pull a trigger, but who do they point the gun at?"

Up until now, the Air Force had what Sergeant Gray calls a flight, fight and win mindset. The "old EOD guys" were brought up to support an air-based war. Their focus was on recovery after an attack.

"Back then, we would eat, breathe and sleep the airfield," Sergeant Gray said. "All we were worried about were the planes."

Once on the ground in Iraq, it did not take them long to change the way they looked at things. All of a sudden they found themselves leaving the protection of base in convoys headed down a road littered with IEDs. The mission was grounded, and finding IEDs blocking major supply routes became their primary mission.

"This has caused a revolution in the use of robotics," said Sergeant Gray. "We've lost a lot of robots and in return a lot of money. You can focus on the monetary value, but each robot destroyed by an IED would have been a human being ... a human life is worth 10 times what the robot cost."

The reality of combat

"The Air Force is new to the idea of combat," said Senior Airman Phillip Granath, who was also deployed from Spangdahlem.

"When we filled out our post deployment brief, a lot of people couldn't comprehend the fact that we had seen dead bodies and had contact with human blood and body parts. They just didn't understand what we had actually been doing for five months."

Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians confiscate an ordnance cache found in the oil fields north of Kirkuk city. "Today's caches are tomorrow's IEDs (improvised explosive devices)," said Senior Master Sgt. William Walton, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight chief deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, from August 2004 through January 2005.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Saunders

“To the majority of the Air Force, combat does not mean engaging the enemy, killing the enemy, taking fire, being blown up by an IED or civilian casualties,” added Sergeant Saunders.

But the team understood all too well the realities of combat. While there, they suffered a devastating loss when a member of their extended team, an Army combat engineer, was killed when an IED detonated. He left behind his 19-year-old wife and 10-month-old daughter.

“We stood with our Army brothers on that sad day on the flightline,” said Senior Master Sgt. William Walton, 39th CES EOD flight chief who was deployed to Kirkuk. “We stayed in formation until the wheels of the C-130 went up.”

But even during times like that, there was no such thing as down time. With blood still visible on his uniform, the team’s Army lieutenant came by the shop to pick up the next team to pull rotation at the forward operating base.

“Our tough officer in charge gave him an embrace before the convoy left – they were men of honor and courage,” said Sergeant Walton, who received a Bronze Star with Valor for the work he and his team did while in Kirkuk. “The EOD memorial wall has added too many names of joint-service EOD people as a result of this war on terror. Any life lost, no matter the branch of service, is too much.”

Learning to cope

When the images of war become too much of a reality, many turn their heads or simply change the channel. Rarely do most people come face to face with death, but it is an everyday reality for EOD teams in Iraq.

“My coping mechanism was to push the carnage aside and press on,” said Sergeant Saunders. “I knew I was no good if I shut down to what I saw. I did a lot of running down range; I suppose that helped with things. I lost about 20 pounds running. You would just try to do something mindless to distract you.”

The big picture

While on base, the team said they frequently ran into individuals who could not comprehend the seriousness of the situation they were in.

“The vast majority of Air Force personnel there had no concept of the fact that they were in a combat zone,” said Airman Granath. “They were worried about making Bingo night while we were working 18 hour days or more, six days a week, getting shot at and disarming IEDs.”



Photo taken by Staff Sgt. Patrick Saunders

Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, from August 2004 through January 2005, perform a nighttime improvised explosive device operation enroute to a forward operating base. The bright light in the background is an oil fire

“People who stay on base live in this sheltered environment,” added Sergeant Saunders. “They have no idea the Army convoys come screaming into the base with injured and dead soldiers or that all those ‘cool-looking’ Army helicopters were only there to transport soldiers that were so seriously injured they had only a matter of minutes to live. It seemed like everyone took for granted that they wouldn’t be hurt.”

“EOD had rendered safe IED on MSR (major supply route). Turn route status to green, over.”

“Understand. MSR is now green and mission is complete, over.”

The team gathers their tools and explosives and jumps back into the hummer. A hand gesture from the driver in the vehicle in front of them signals their driver and, without a word, he slams on the gas. The convoy continues its anxious race back to base as the early-morning sun threatens to break their cover: another mission, another day.

The grip on their chests starts to lessen and they wonder how many hours of restless sleep they might squeeze in before they are called upon again. In this line of work, it is not a matter of if they will have to do it again, but when.



Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, *Host Nation Adviser*

Getting around

Question: Mehmet, I have found a small train station at Incirlik. Can I catch a train from Incirlik to other cities? How fast and reliable are the trains in Turkey? Do trains go to every city and town? What is the main transportation way in Turkey?

Response: The station at Incirlik is a minor one and mainly used for local train line between Iskenderun and Mersin. The Incirlik train station is also used for cargo and train cars changing lanes. That's why from time to time you see the road at the Alley crossing the railroad tracks blocked by trains.

Adana is so close to Incirlik, seven miles, and it has one of the major train stations of Turkey. All the schedules and time tables of trains to and from Adana are posted on big boards at the entrance.

Railroad transportation hasn't been able to compete with buses and airplanes for the last few decades in Turkey. In fact railroad transportation has been neglected and become a secondary mode of transportation at the same time. In recent years the Turkish government made some plans to modernize the railroads. As part of those efforts, fast trains run between Ankara and Istanbul.

Although it takes about 11 hours going to Ankara by train on a sleeper car, it is a unique experience. The restaurant car is next to the sleeper car serving typical Turkish food and drinks. The train staff is very kind and prepares a bed at any time passengers wish. The sleeper car to Ankara departs around 7:30 p.m. and arrives in Ankara the next morning. The same evening people can take the train back to Adana and arrive in the following morning. That way you don't have to make reservations or pay for hotel since you will be sleeping on the train for two nights.

Travelers need to be patient and have plenty of time if they want to go to Istanbul and Izmir by train from Adana. It takes about 24 hours to get to Izmir from Adana.

The state-run Turkish Air Lines used to have monopoly of flying domestic routes in Turkey. Two years ago the government allowed private sector airlines to fly domestically as well. Now people can fly to any major city in Turkey from Adana. But since almost all the airlines are headquartered in Istanbul, there will be a connection flight through Istanbul, except to Ankara. The new private sector airlines have brought competition and lower prices to domestic flights. Also there more options time wise now.

More than 90 percent of passenger transportation is done by buses in Turkey. The buses running between cities are quite comfortable and reliable. They all air conditioned. Since there are very many bus companies, the competition among them is very severe and that reflects on the quality of service and prices. Buses are not allowed to exceed 90 kilometers per hour. It is strictly controlled by traffic policemen.

Every city has a central bus station. Once you go to that station, you can go to any city and town in Turkey, directly or with connections at other cities bus stations. Smoking is not allowed on buses even on long trips. They stop and give a 20-30 minutes stop at every three hours. Depending on the time of the day, there are breaks for breakfast, lunch or dinner and for passengers to use the rest rooms at the restaurants or facilities at the bus stop. All bus companies serve water, fruit juice or soda pop and hot, tea-coffee, beverages and some small snacks, free of charge, on the bus.

A bus ride from Adana to Ankara takes roughly seven hours and 12 to 13 to get to Istanbul or Izmir.

Transportation between small and close towns is done not by big and comfortable buses but by smaller buses and mostly by vans.

Sleeping on busses

Question: Mehmet, I was taking a bus tour in Turkey, I noticed something odd. We were taking the bus to a ferry and it looked as if someone was going to take a nap in the luggage compartment. My wife said it was sleeper for the alternate bus driver. Is that true? When we stopped, I also noticed that the side of the bus had an emblem looking like it rated the bus like a hotel and gave it three stars. Is that the rating of the sleeper car? Can people taking trips request to use the sleeper car?

Response: Most buses running between cities have a place in the luggage compartment for the alternate driver to sleep. The main transportation between cities is done by buses in Turkey. According to traffic law in Turkey, a driver cannot drive for more than five hours at a time and no more than nine hours in a day. Therefore, all buses should have an alternate driver. The two drivers take turns for driving and taking a nap in the luggage compartment.

The pictures and emblems on the side of the bus are decorations done by the bus drivers. Passengers may not use the sleeper car on a bus; it is just for the alternate driver. Only trains have sleeper cars for passengers in Turkey.

In Turkish

_____ gitmek istiyorum - I want to go to
(__ ghit - mack ees- tea - yoh - room)

tren - train
(tran)

otobus - bus
(auto - bus)

Kac saat? - How many hours?
(khach sah-ath)

Ne zaman? - When, what time?
(neh zah - mahn)

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

Men's Health Day

National Men's Health day is Monday. There is a Men's health and fitness booth set up from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the base exchange. For more information, call Capt. Romica Singh at 6-8256.

50th Anniversary celebration

Activities for the Incirlik 50th Anniversary celebration include: The **Amazing Incirlik Race** at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at the high school track. Contestants should pre-register by close of business today. **Dedication ceremony** at 9 a.m. Thursday in front of building 833. This joint ceremony honors 50 years of partnership. **Military sports day** starts at 7:30 a.m. June 17 at Arkadas Park. There are 10 events planned. People who want to participate need to pre-register by close of business today. All events are alternate duty locations for Air Force personnel. For more information, call Capt. Coleen Foust at 6-3108 or Richelle Kemper at 6-2180.

CPRC kids day

The Country Plains Riding Club is having a summer fun kids day from 4 to 7 p.m. June 18 at the incirlik stables. There will be pony rides, games and a bouncy castle. Cost is \$10 per child. For more information, call Angela Hill at 6-2153.

Youth summer camps

There are four summer residential camps open around Europe for Incirlik youth to attend including the Teen Ropes Course from June 17 to 21 at Bitberg, Germany; Space Camp from July 10 to 17 at Izmir, Turkey; Youth Exploration and Adventure camp from July 25 to 29 at Shropshire, England; and Teen Adventure camp from Aug. 11 to 15 at Garmish, Germany. For more information on age requirements and how to apply, call the youth center at 6-3246 or 6-6670.

Aqua Aerobics

Aqua Aerobics are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the base pool. Cost is \$30 per month. For more information, call the pool at 6-3442.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Staff Sgt. Andrea Devincentz

39th Air Base Wing Detachment 1
Custodian of Postal Effects

Time in service: Six years

Hometown: Toms River, N.J.

Time on station: Six months

Hobbies: Music, movies, playing on my guitar

Why did you join the Air Force? I joined

the Air Force to travel and see the world.
What do you like the most about Turkey?
I like the culture.

How do you contribute to the mission?

I am the custodian of postal effects for our air post office. I am in charge of all funds that come in and out of the APO.

What is your favorite motto?

Think before you speak.

What Air Force core value best describes you?

Excellence in all you do.

Supervisor's quote:

"Outstanding is how to describe Staff Sgt. Devincentz," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Parker, 39th Air Base Wing Detachment 1 postmaster. "She definitely sets the example for all NCOs to follow. Her attention to detail is what separates her from her peers and lights a spark under everyone that works with her. I'm honored to have a 'service before self' NCO I can depend on."

Classifieds

Yard Sale: A yard sale is 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at 2810C Balikesir St. in Phantom housing. Items for sale include infant and toddler

clothes and toys and some adult clothing. For more information call "Missie" at 6-2343.

For sale: 2000 Toyota Celica GT, like new. Asking \$9,500. For more information, call Bill at 6-2185 after 6 p.m. or e-mail wganders@yahoo.com.

For sale: Like new Siemens CF62 mobile phone with SIM card, all accessories, car adaptor, leather case and 200 units included. \$200 O.B.O. For more information, call 6-2283.

For sale: Hitachi 29 inch flat screen multi system television and Digiturk satellite dish. \$400 for both. Will sell separately. For more information, call 6-2283.

Instructors needed: The community center is looking for experienced piano instructors. For more information, call Nerissa Atkisson at 6-1032.



This is the solution for the crossword puzzle published in the April 1 edition of the *Tip of the Sword*. Crossword puzzles are published in the first *Tip of the Sword* edition of every month. For more information, call 6-6060 or e-mail the *Tip of the Sword* staff at tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil.



Project CHEER focuses on creating a positive atmosphere by offering unaccompanied airmen opportunities to participate in trips, tournaments, classes, giveaways and community service events.

COMBAT, SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAM

Project Wizard

The Incirlik library has new hours starting Saturday. The new hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fridays, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The Incirlik library has a selection of books on Cappadocia and other travel destinations in Turkey. For more information, call 6-6759.

Combat Touch happenings

The **Protestant Women of the Chapel** are sponsoring a night of fellowship, worship and West Indian cuisine from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday at the chapel annex. For more information, call Auline Platt at 6-5959.

The **Singles of the Chapel** meet at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at the Crossroads Cafe for dinner, Bible study and fellowship. For more information, call Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Richard Spearman at 6-6441.

The **Protestant Men of the Chapel** meet at noon Wednesdays for lunch and Bible study. For more information, call Drew Eubank at 6-8312.

A **marriage preparation workshop** is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 25. Registration must be completed by June 22 and is \$10 per couple. Lunch, childcare and all materials are provided. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Dallas Little at 6-6441.

The **Crossroads Cafe** opens at 6 p.m. Fridays for people 18 years old and older and 7 p.m. Saturdays for all ages. For information, call 6-6441.

Hours for Sunday worship services at the base chapel in building 945 are:

Protestant:

8 a.m. – Traditional worship service
11:15 a.m. – Gospel worship service
6 p.m. – Contemporary service

Catholic:

9 a.m. – Reconciliation
9:30 a.m. – Mass

Daily Mass is 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The chapel also has points of contact for Jewish, Wiccan and Jehova's Witness. For these and any other faiths, call the base chapel at 6-6441.



Courtesy photo

1,2,3 pull!

Incirlik elementary school students participate in a tug-of-war June 2 as part of their Field Day activities. Field Day is a celebration of the end of the school year.



AT THE OASIS

Today

7 p.m. – Ice Princess (G) – Starring Michelle Trachtenberg and Joan Cusack. Casey has never quite fit in. Caught between her fantasy of becoming a championship figure skater and her strong-willed mother, who has her on the fast track to Harvard, she can only hope to be like Nikki, Tiffany and Gen - three-elite skating prodigies who are ruthlessly competing on the U.S. National circuit. (98 minutes)

9:15 p.m. – Amityville Horror (R)(1st Run) – Starring Jimmy Bennett and Ryan Reynolds. George and Kathy Lutz, along with their three children, move into their dream home. The Lutz family only lasted twenty eight days in their home after they were terrorized by a demonic force that drove them away. (89 minutes)

Saturday

5 p.m. – Robots (PG) – Animated. Voices of Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry and Robin Williams. Rodney Copperbottom is an idealistic robot who wants to convince his electronic brethren to come together and work toward making the world a better place. (88 minutes)

7:30 p.m. – Amityville Horror (R)(1st Run) – Starring Jimmy Bennett and Ryan Reynolds. (89 minutes)

Sunday

7 p.m. – The Ring 2 (PG-13) – Starring Naomi Watts and Simon Baker. Rachel Keller,

six months after the events of the first film, moves to Astoria, Ore., with her son, Aidan, to escape their memories of what happened in Seattle. When a few locals start dying, however, and a strange videotape reappears, Rachel becomes aware that the creepy Samara is back and after Aidan. (107 minutes)

Thursday

7 p.m. – Guess Who (PG-13) – Starring Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher. Percy is taking no chances with his daughter Theresa's future. Even before he meets Simon, her latest boyfriend, Percy has him checked out. On paper, he passes with flying colors — great job, good investments and a promising future. But there's one thing the credit report didn't tell him: Simon is white. Not that there's anything wrong with that, unless, of course, Simon wants to marry his daughter. Which he does. (104 minutes)

AT THE M1

Monster in Law (PG-13) — noon, 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m. (102 minutes)

XXX-2 State of the Union (PG-13) — 12:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. (101 minutes)

A Lot Like Love (PG-13) — 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m. (107 minutes)

Movie listings are subject to changes. On-base listings are courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/incirlik.htm>; M-1 listings are courtesy of the Tempe Cinemaxx Web site at www.tepecinemaxx.com.tr. For more Oasis information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140.